

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 15-18, 20-27, 29, 30, 32-36 and 41-54 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Applicants expressly reserve the right to file the subject matter of these claims in one or more continuation applications; and

Please amend claims 28, 31, 37 and 38 as follows:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

In the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A sealing device for sealing at least one zone of underpressure or overpressure adjoining a moving surface, comprising:

at least one sealing element, positionable opposite the moving surface to form a front and a rear, with respect to a surface running direction, comprising a sealing section located at said front and a ventilation section located at said rear;

said sealing section being structured to sealingly interact with the moving surface; and

said ventilation section being structured and arranged to form a gap with the moving surface that widens in the surface running direction,

wherein said sealing element is pivotally mounted at an end of said ventilation section.

2. (Previously Presented) The sealing device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said sealing section adjoins said ventilation section.

3. (Original) The sealing device in accordance with claim 2, wherein said ventilation section is structured to continuously decrease in cross-section away from said sealing section.

4. (Original) The sealing device in accordance with claim 3, wherein the moving surface is arranged in a paper making machine.

5. (Original) The sealing device in accordance with claim 2, wherein said gap has a continuously increasing depth in the surface running direction.

6. (Original) The sealing device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said sealing section and said ventilation section are composed of a same material.

7. (Original) The sealing device in accordance with claim 6, wherein said sealing section and said ventilation section are formed as a single piece.

8. (Original) The sealing device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said sealing section and said ventilation section are composed of different materials.

9. (Original) The sealing device in accordance with claim 8, wherein said sealing section and said ventilation section are separately formed and secured together.

10. (Original) The sealing device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said ventilation section is composed of a porous sound-absorbing plastic.

11. (Original) The sealing device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said sealing section is composed of at least one of rubber graphite, polyethylene, and thermosetting plastic.

12. (Original) The sealing device in accordance with claim 11, wherein said polyethylene comprises thermoplastic UHMW and said thermosetting plastic comprises phenolic resin.

13. (Original) The sealing device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said sealing element comprises a sealing strip.

14. (Original) The sealing device in accordance with claim 13, wherein said sealing strip extends transversely to the running direction.

Claims 15-27 (Canceled).

28. (Currently Amended) ~~The sealing device in accordance with claim 15, A~~
sealing device for sealing at least one zone of underpressure or overpressure adjoining
a moved surface, comprising:

at least one sealing element, positionable opposite the moving surface to form a front and a rear, with respect to a surface running direction, comprising a sealing section located at said front and a ventilation section located at said rear; and

said at least one sealing element being pivotably mounted at an end of said ventilation section to pivot relative to the moving surface to position said at least one sealing element into an operating position,

wherein, in said operating position, said sealing section is in sealing contact with the moving surface and a gap is formed between the ventilation section and the moving surface, and

wherein said gap increases in the running direction.

Claims 29 and 30 (Canceled).

31. (Currently Amended) ~~The sealing device in accordance with claim 30,~~ A sealing device for sealing at least one zone of underpressure or overpressure adjoining a moved surface, comprising:

at least one sealing element, positionable opposite the moving surface to form a front and a rear, with respect to a surface running direction, comprising a sealing section located at said front and a ventilation section located at said rear;

said at least one sealing element being pivotably mounted at an end of said ventilation section to pivot relative to the moving surface to position said at least one sealing element into an operating position; and

a pressure device coupled to said sealing element,

wherein, in said operating position, said sealing section is in sealing contact with the moving surface and a gap is formed between the ventilation section and the moving surface,

wherein said sealing element is loadable into said operating position by said pressure device, and

wherein said pressure device comprises a pressure hose.

Claims 32-36 (Canceled).

37. (Currently Amended) ~~The sealing device in accordance with claim 15, further comprising~~ A sealing device for sealing at least one zone of underpressure or overpressure adjoining a moved surface, comprising:

at least one sealing element, positionable opposite the moving surface to form a front and a rear, with respect to a surface running direction, comprising a sealing section located at said front and a ventilation section located at said rear;

said at least one sealing element being pivotably mounted at an end of said ventilation section to pivot relative to the moving surface to position said at least one sealing element into an operating position; and

a pressure device coupled to said sealing element,

wherein, in said operating position, said sealing section is in sealing contact with the moving surface and a gap is formed between the ventilation section and the moving surface, and

wherein said sealing element comprises includes a lug extending in a pivot direction, said lug being chargeable via said pressure device.

38. (Currently Amended) ~~The sealing device in accordance with claim 15, further comprising~~ A sealing device for sealing at least one zone of underpressure or overpressure adjoining a moved surface, comprising:

at least one sealing element, positionable opposite the moving surface to form a front and a rear, with respect to a surface running direction, comprising a sealing section located at said front and a ventilation section located at said rear;

said at least one sealing element being pivotably mounted at an end of said ventilation section to pivot relative to the moving surface to position said at least one sealing element into an operating position; and

a pressure device coupled to said sealing element and a spacer,
wherein, in said operating position, said sealing section is in sealing contact with the moving surface and a gap is formed between the ventilation section and the moving surface, and

wherein a force transmission takes place from said pressure device onto said sealing element via said spacer.

39. (Previously presented) The sealing device in accordance with claim 38, said spacer being cambered at least one of a side facing said pressure device and a side facing said sealing element.

40. (Original) The sealing device in accordance with claim 39, further comprising a guide structured and arranged to linearly guide said spacer.

Claims 41-54 (Canceled).